

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer of Preparation

God of grace, help us seek you and the truth you intend for us today. Let us not be distracted by worldly pursuits or pleasures. Help us to focus our hearts and minds on you and your Word read and proclaimed. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

*(Please note the * indicates when you should stand.)*

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you

And also with you

Prelude

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

Giardini arr. Ingram

*The Call to Worship

L: The voice of God proclaims of Jesus, "You are my beloved, and I love you."

A: We, too, are God's beloved children, loved and embraced.

L: With all the voices reminding us that we are not enough or don't belong, it is tempting to forget our place in God's Kingdom.

A: With the waters of baptism and the voice of God's promises, we can face the temptations of any wilderness or desert that would draw us away from the Source of our hope.

L: Embrace your belovedness.

A: We rejoice in God's unending love for us!

*Opening Prayer (*In Unison*)

How you love us, God of rainbow promises! Lead us through the wildernesses that surround our lives. Decrease our fears and increase our faith as we embark on this Lenten journey with Jesus. Amen.

* Hymn	<i>"Lord, Who Throughout these Forty Day"</i>	#180 vs. 1-4
Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.	And thro' these days of penitence, and thro' your passion tide, forevermore, in life and death, O Christ, with us abide.	
As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win, O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.	Abide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain, an Easter of unending joy we may at last attain!	

Call to Confession (*In Unison*)

One: God takes our broken promises and turns them into vows of faithfulness. God takes our biggest failings and shapes lives of service. God listens to our prayers of confession and changes them into songs of mercy. Let us come to the One who pours forgiveness into our lives, praying,

All: We admit we are hesitant to walk to Jerusalem and beyond with you, God of Glory. In a world where we worry about tomorrow before enjoying today, we race by your moments of silence, of learning. In that flood of worries, which can overwhelm us, we may miss that assurance that you have not cut us off from your grace. In the deserts of our desires, we may ignore that feast of hope, of joy, of life you offer to us. Forgive us and have mercy on us, Gentle Guardian of our souls. In humility, may we offer our lives to others. In love, may we share your grace with everyone we meet. In hope, may we wait for you all our days, as you come to us in the life and joy of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Assurance of Pardon

Praise be to God, whose forgiveness and steadfast love endures forever. All: Praise God! Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Special Music

"Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley"

Spiritual arr. Waldrop

Time for the Child in us All

Danny Mueller

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 9:8-17

One: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message Covenant of Peace

* Hymn	<i>"Let There Be Peace on Earth"</i>	#677
Let there be peace on earth And let it begin with me. Let there be peace on earth The peace that was meant to be. With God our creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other In perfect harmony.	Let peace begin with me Let this be the moment now. With ev'ry step I take Let this be my solemn vow. To take each moment And live each moment In peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth And let it begin with me.	

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer *(In Unison)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to Give Generously

(Thank you for being so generous in your care of St. John's UCC and its mission, through your participation and giving. Your stewardship makes a difference. You may make your offering several ways including in church, online, by text at 833-502-0657, or mail. We are grateful for your support.)

***Doxology** *(In Unison)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication (*In Unison*)**

Abundant God, receive these gifts of love from your servants and use them for the breaking in of your Kingdom of love and light. In the name of Jesus, whose way calls us forth in service, we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn	<i>"Ours the Journey"</i>	#458 vs 1, 2 & 4
In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways, who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways? [Refrain] God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, we your people, ours the journey now and evermore!	Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair, Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care? [Refrain] Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain, May your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again. [Refrain]	

Benediction

Postlude

"I will Praise Him"

Ingram

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Preaching: **Rev. Dr. Susan King**

Liturgist: **Danny Mueller**

Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellow & Lockup: **Laura Dierberg Ayers**

Children's Time: **Danny Mueller**

Handbell Ringers: **Erin Armstrong, Norma Armstrong, Jan Boehm, Lee Difani, Barb Nichols, Scott Nichols, Ruth Notch, Jim Pisoni**

Song Leaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**

Announcements

... Looking Ahead February ♥

2/18	11:00 AM	Ted Gottlieb "Senior Living Community"
2/19	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
2/19		Presidents' Day (<i>office/ECC closed</i>)
2/20	12:00 PM	ECC early dismissal
2/22	6:00 PM	Table Fellowship at Paul Manno's Chesterfield
2/23	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter
2/25	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
2/25	10:00 AM	2nd Sunday of Lent
2/25		Global Ministries Pray for Ecuador
2/25	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
2/27	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship

more at <https://www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org/fellowship>

Please check your News Notes/Website for specific information around upcoming activities

Global Ministries requests that we pray with **India** this week

We pray for **Barb Ackerman, June Evers, Elizabeth Hart, Sue Kinnaman, Cherie Messina, Arland Stemme, Barbara Tretter and Gloria Vaclavik** Please let us know your prayer concerns

Rick Wagner expresses his gratitude to the congregation for their thoughts and prayers.

2/25/24 Service

Preaching: **Rev. Donna Pupillo**
 Liturgist: **Laura Dierberg Ayers**
 Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellow & Lockup: **Laura Dierberg Ayers**
 Children's Time: **Laura Dierberg Ayers**
 Special Music

03/03/24 Service

Preaching: **Rev. Mary Blaufuss**
 Liturgist: **Erin Armstrong**
 Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellow & Lockup: **Jan Boehm**
 Children's Time: **Rev. Mary Blaufuss**
 Special Music: **Piano Duet & Cello**

03/10/24 Service

Preaching: **Rev. Katie Jo Biel**
 Liturgist: **Mary Polt**
 Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellow & Lockup: **Jan Boehm**
 Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo Biel**
 Special Music



Pastor Katie Jo will be joining us on March 4 as our new Pastor and we would love to welcome her with cards from as many members as possible. You may drop them in the offering plate, give to a Council member, drop them by the church office, or mail them to the church office. For your convenience, we will have some cards available both at Fellowship Hour and in the Sanctuary.

... Looking Ahead March



3/3	10:00 AM	3rd Sunday of Lent
3/3		Communion Sunday
3/3		Global Ministries Pray for Egypt
3/3	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting (<i>library</i>)
3/4	9:00 AM	Pastor Katie Jo's first day in the office
3/6 – 3/7		ECC Parent Conferences
3/8	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter
3/9	6:30 PM	Bingo, doors open at 6:30
3/10	10:00 AM	Pastor Katie Jo's first Service
3/10	10:00 AM	4th Sunday of Lent
3/10	10:00 AM	<i>One Great Hour of Sharing Collection</i>
3/10		Global Ministries Pray for Japan
3/11	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee
3/17	10:00 AM	5th Sunday of Lent
3/17		Global Ministries Pray for Myanmar
3/18	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
3/18 to 22		ECC Spring Break
3/22		Biweekly Newsletter
3/24		Global Ministries Pray for Cuba
3/24	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
3/24	10:00 AM	6th Sunday of Lent
3/24	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
3/26	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
3/28	6:00 PM	Table Fellowship at TBD
3/28		Maundy Thursday
3/29		ECC No School
3/29		Good Friday
3/30		Holy Saturday
3/31	10:00 AM	Easter
3/31		Global Ministries Pray for Greece